

Publications

MCATA HAS BEEN PRODUCING publications since shortly after its inception in 1961. A paper chase through the archives and library at Barnett House resulted in an incomplete, but impressive, list of published documents, including newsletters, journals, annuals and monographs. In sifting through the collection, it became evident that, over the years, the publications have responded to changing needs of the members when deemed appropriate. These changes have been seen in the format and frequency of publications.

Newsletters

The earliest *Mathematics Council Newsletter* found is Volume 2, Number 1, March 1963. The editor was Professor W. F. Coulson of the University of Alberta. It was published in a small size for four years (up to Volume 6, Number 4, June 1967). Tom Atkinson and Sol Sigurdson, both of the University of Alberta, also served as

editors during this time. Beginning with Volume 7, Number 1, December 1967, the newsletter was changed to a larger, 8.5" x 11" size. Mary Beaton of the University of Calgary was the editor from this time until June 1970, when Murray Falk, a high school teacher from Calgary, took on the challenge. The enlarged version of the newsletter continued up to Volume 10, Number 2, February 1971. The newsletters included articles on curriculum changes, book reviews, ideas for teaching current topics in all divisions, interesting problems to solve, conference updates, news about local activities and research reports.

Retrospectively, many mathematics education topics and issues seem timeless. For example, browsing through early newsletters brings to mind the cliché that the more things change, the more they stay the same. In the 1960s, a problem was raised about how to accommodate members of other specialist councils wishing to attend MCATA conferences without having to purchase a MCATA membership. This same issue was raised at a recent (1990s) executive meeting. Concerns about implementing new curricula and pleas for newsletter articles are eternal issues. In light of technological advances, one research report, "Project Calculator," written 25 years ago (February 1968) by Marshall Bye, is noteworthy. He reported with enthusiasm the positive effects of using calculators with students who had previously been unsuccessful in mathematics. The accompanying photographs of bulky desktop calculators plugged into electrical outlets are particularly striking. [See "Project Calculator" page 38.]

AD 1895-97

Georg Cantor conceives the theory of transfinite numbers.

AD 1900

David Hilbert proposes 20 fundamental questions to challenge mathematical efforts in the 20th century.

